

QUORUM

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE BROJENDRA PRASAD KATAKEY,  
FORMER JUDGE, GAUHATI HIGH COURT, GUWAHATI

PROF. ASHOK K. SINGH, MEMBER  
REPRESENTATIVE FROM INDIAN SCHOOL OF MINES, DHANBAD  
IIT (ISM), DHANBAD (826004)

DR. SHANTANU KUMAR DUTTA, ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR,  
REPRESENTATIVE OF CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF

Threat to Life Arising Out of Coal Mining in South Garo Hills District

-Vs-

The State of Meghalaya & Ors.  
And other connected matters

PRESENT

- : **Prof. O. P. Singh,**  
Department of Environmental Studies,  
North Eastern Hill University  
Email id: opsinghnehu@gmail.com
- : **Mr. P.W. Ingty, IAS**  
Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of  
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- : **Mr. D. P. Wahlang, IAS**  
Principal Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya,  
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- : **Mr. C. P. Marak, IFS,**  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF  
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- : **Mr. T. Dkhar, IAS**  
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- : **Mr. J. H Nengnong,** Member Secretary  
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- : **Mr. L. S. Lyngdoh,** Deputy Director  
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- : **Dr. H. Tynsong,** Scientist 'D',  
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**PROCEEDING NO. 11**

**RECORDS OF THE MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE  
CONSTITUTED BY THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL HELD ON 25<sup>th</sup>  
MARCH, 2019 AT 9.00 AM IN THE CONFERENCE HALL, O/O PRINCIPAL CHIEF  
CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HOFF, SYLVAN HOUSE, SHILLONG, MEGHALAYA.**

Mr. P. W. Ingty, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya welcomed the Hon'ble Chairperson, Members of the Committee, Special Invitees, senior officials of the State Government and other officers present.

## AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Review of actions taken to comply with directions issued in Ninth and Tenth Sittings of the Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 and 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 respectively.
2. Consideration of the proposals for execution of following activities from the Meghalaya Environment Protection and Restoration Fund (MEPRF).
  - (i) Purchase of 36 nos. of 2000 litres capacity Syntax water tanks by the Deputy Commissioner, East Jaintia Hills District at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.48 lakh to provide potable water to 36 nos. villages identified by Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department.
  - (ii) Purchase and operation of 4 nos. vehicle mounted water tankers of 10,000 litres capacity and 2 nos. vehicle mounted water tankers of 2,000 litre capacity by Deputy Commissioner East Jaintia Hills District at an estimated cost of Rs. 134.18 lakhs to provide potable water to 36 nos. villages identified by Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department.
  - (iii) Creation of 24 hectare plantation by adopting Akira Miyawaki Model by District Administration, East Jaintia Hills District in 10 villages at an estimated cost of Rs. 140.72 lakhs.
  - (iv) Raising of 110 hectare plantation by the North Khasi Hills Social forestry Division at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 153.78 lakhs.
  - (v) Re – vegetation of blanks created in community and privately owned forests due to commercial felling of trees as per approved Working Schemes in Jaintia Hills District.
3. Consideration of a report submitted by the Deputy Commissioner, East Jaintia Hills district on a news report titled” Four die as coal laden truck capsizes in East Jaintia Hills “Four die as local lade truck capsizes in EJH” appeared in Shillong Edition of a local Daily “Shillong Times” dated 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.
4. Consideration of a proposal for implementation of a pilot project prepared by the PCCF (Climate Change, Research & Training), Meghalaya for restoration of environment in 3 hectares of areas affected by coal mining in East Jaintia Hills district at an estimated cost of Rs. 113.10 lakhs.
5. Any other matter(s) to be raised with the permission of the Chair.



## AGENDA ITEM NO. 1

1. Shri D. P. Wahlang, IAS, Principal Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Labour Department – cum – Chief Executive Officer, Meghalaya State Skills Development Society (MSSDS) has placed before the Committee the schemes formulated by the MSSDS for conducting skill development programme and for alternative employment to the coal mine workers and other indirectly affected persons due to ban on coal mining, which is taken on record.

Shri. D. P. Wahlang, IAS has also apprised the Committee that a meeting with the training providers already selected and also the representatives of the Deputy Commissioners of East & West Jaintia Hills Districts is scheduled to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2019 for the purpose of identification of the beneficiaries of the schemes and also the modalities for providing the required training under the said schemes.

The Committee has also been informed that the Deputy Commissioners of all the districts of the State of Meghalaya have already been informed to identify the beneficiaries and to provide their names and addresses which he is expecting to get shortly.

In view of the above, the Principal Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Labour Department shall ensure implementation of the said schemes as formulated by MSSDS. A report in relation to the implementation of the same shall be submitted to the Committee within a month.

2. The Principal Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Public Health Engineering Department and the Chief Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Meghalaya have apprised the Committee about procurement of p<sup>H</sup> – cum – conductivity digital meter pursuant to the decision of the Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2019. The Committee has also been apprised that some of such meters would be delivered within a day or two and already available metres have been calibrated.

The Committee in view of the above directs the Chief Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Meghalaya to send the samples, phase wise, to the laboratory of Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board every month for testing all the parameters of the drinking water supplied to the villagers of different villages.

The required parameters in those samples, including the p<sup>H</sup> value, shall be verified and the reports shall be submitted to this Committee within a month.

The Committee took on record the Action Taken Report dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2019 submitted by the Chief Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Meghalaya. It appears from the said Action Taken Report that the process of construction of lime solution chamber for treatment of acidic water is going on and expected to be completed within a month. The said Action Taken Report further reveals issuance of notices

to the Village Headmen of 26 villages affected by 26 Water Supply Schemes apprising them about the acidic nature of water supplied and to advise the villagers not to use such water for drinking and cooking purposes. The Committee has also been apprised that after treatment the source of water from 10 dug wells in the Villages of Pynthorsale, Umkboh, Umthe, Umlawang, Rachai, Myntriang, Iurim Khliehshnong, Krem Myrsiang, Mulait Bri Sutnga and long Kaluh was found to be fit for human consumption.

The Committee has also been apprised that drinkable water is being supplied to the affected villages by means of the water tankers provided by the District Administration.

The Chief Engineer Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Meghalaya has apprised the Committee that the re – revised proposal for an incomplete water supply scheme earlier submitted to the Government of Meghalaya has been returned for verification and approval by him which accordingly re – verified and approved and send it back to the Government of Meghalaya, Public Health Engineering Department which proposal now is pending before the Planning Department, Government of Meghalaya.

In view of the above, all the concerned Departments of Meghalaya shall take decision within a month on the said re – revised proposal submitted by the Chief Engineer in respect of Greater Rymbai Water Supply Scheme and apprise this Committee about the decision taken.

3. The Chairman of Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board as well as the Member Secretary/ Coordinator of the Committee have apprised the Committee that the required fund for conduct of the project by CSIR – Central Institute of Mining & Fuel Research (CSIR – CIMFR), Dhanbad has been made available with the Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board.

The Committee has also been apprised that the Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) prepared by CSIR – CIMFR, Dhanbad is being scrutinised by Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board, which is expected to be finalised within a week and thereafter MoU would be signed and the required fund would be released to CSIR – CIMFR, Dhanbad for undertaking the project studies.

The Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board within a week from now shall finalise the MoU and ensure that such MoU is executed between the parties within two weeks from now. Within a week thereafter the required funds shall also be made available to CSIR – CIMFR, Dhanbad so that the studies in question can be conducted by the said organisations.

A report in that regard shall be submitted to the Committee within a month.

4. In the Action Taken Report submitted by Mining & Geology Department, Government of Meghalaya it has been mentioned that the matter relating to the exemption sought for by the

State Government from certain provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 is pending before the Ministry of Coal, Government of India, which is also under consideration by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Committee has been apprised that till date the State Government has not been informed by the Government of India about the request made for exemption from certain provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. The Committee has also been informed that the matter before the Hon'ble Supreme Court is likely to be taken up on 26<sup>th</sup> of March, 2019, outcome of which shall be apprised to this Committee in its next Proceeding.

5. The Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department by the said Action Taken Report has also apprised the Committee that the Report of the Technical Committee of South Garo Hills District has been received, which is placed on record. The report of the Technical Committee of other districts viz East Jaintia Hills, East Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills and South West Khasi Hills Districts, are yet to be received, which they are expecting to receive shortly. The said technical committees were formed by Govt. of Meghalaya to scrutinize and submit report on the issue of uninventorized coal, whether those were mined prior to imposition of ban on coal mining or thereafter.

Perusal of the report of the Technical Committee of South Garo Hills District reveals that though the said Technical Committee conducted field verification of the coal stock of 42 coal mine owners, no measurement of the coal stock available has been conducted by them on the ground of "**due to paucity of time**".

The ocular measurement conducted by the technical team constituted by the Deputy Commissioner of the said District was accepted by the said Committee without any verification. Hence, the said report of the Technical Committee could not be accepted.

The Technical Committee of the said District as well as the aforesaid districts shall submit their respective reports in the format already furnished by this Committee within a month. It shall be the responsibilities of the Deputy Commissioners of those districts to ensure that no further coal mining activities in their respective districts as well as the transportation occurs.

6. The Committee has also been apprised by the Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department that despite issuance of the public notices in the newspapers published from Assam, no claim has been received so far. The Committee has also been apprised that 10 (ten) claims already received by it have been sent to the Deputy Commissioners of South Garo Hills District and East Jaintia Hills District, for verification, reports on which are yet to be received.

The Deputy Commissioner of South Garo Hills and East Jaintia Hills Districts shall within a month from now submit their respective verification reports on the claims forwarded

to them by the Department of Mining & Geology, Government of Meghalaya, to the Commissioner & Secretary who shall verify the said claims and place his report along with the reports of the Deputy Commissioners before the Committee thereafter.

7. By the said Action Taken Report, the Committee has also been apprised that all the 7 (seven) limestone mines, in respect of which the lease period was over, are upon physical verification found to be non – operational.
8. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department has also placed on record the Citizen's report filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court by 22 Social Activists in the form of the CD.
9. By an another Action Taken Report submitted by the Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department, the Committee has been informed about disbursement of Rs. 100,000/- as directed, to the coal mine workers who either reportedly trapped in the coal mine in Ksan near Lytein River or whose dead bodies have been found in the coal mine area at Mooknor Jalyiah.
10. The Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department has submitted that a report as asked for from the Deputy Commissioner of South Garo Hills is yet to be received.

The Deputy Commissioner of the said district therefore shall within two weeks from now submit his report relating to the following, to the Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department which in turn shall be submitted to this Committee thereafter:

- (i) The no. of persons died or received injuries in the coal mining activities in the said district so far.
- (ii) Amount of compensation, if any paid, by the State Government to the next of kin of those coal mine workers who died or to the persons who received injuries.
- (iii) Amount of compensation, if any, paid by the coal mine owners, if so by and to whom.
- (iv) The action, if any, taken or initiated against the coal mine owners where the coal mine workers either died or received injuries

11. Four notifications, all dated 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2019, issued by the Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department in exercise of the power conferred by of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 appointing





the authorised officers have been placed before the Committee, so as to take appropriate legal action for violation of the provisions of the aforesaid Act. The said Notifications are taken on record. The authorised officers shall initiate appropriate legal action under the provisions of the aforesaid Act against the wrong doers.

The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department within a month shall submit a report relating to the institution of any proceeding under the provisions of MMDR Act, 1957 against any persons, after issuance of the aforesaid notifications all dated 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.

12. The Government of Meghalaya shall strengthen the Department of Mining & Geology and make available all the required staff for discharge of their respective responsibilities for which the Government of Meghalaya has asked for the exemption from certain provisions of MMDR Act.

13. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department has apprised the Committee that the disaster management plan both “**off site**” and “**on site**”, as suggested by the Deputy Commissioner and Chairman of District Disaster Management Authority, East Jaintia Hills District, could not be finalised due to not giving the date for holding the meeting by the Chairman of the State Disaster Management Authority.

The Government of Meghalaya shall appreciate the requirement of having such disaster management plan more so in view of the two recent incidents occurred in East Jaintia Hills District, where 19 coal mine workers were reported to have died. It appears that the Government of Meghalaya is not serious enough to have such disaster management plan despite the aforesaid unfortunate incidents occurred in the aforesaid district.

The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department has assured the Committee that the said plan shall be finalised within a month, which shall be placed before this Committee thereafter.

14. 10 (ten) days' time as asked for by the Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department, is granted to share list of miners, coal dealers or transporters, to whom coal transportation challan have been issued over the years available with the Directorate of Mineral Resources with the Central Pollution Control Board, Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board and the Regional Office of MoEF & CC so that appropriate action as required under the law can be initiated by the said authorities against the defaulting individuals or the organisations.

15. The CPCB has submitted its report wherefrom it appears that the CPCB did not assess the year-wise details of power or cement produced and the year-wise quantity of coal required to produce such recorded/reported quantity of power or cement by each of the Power Plants

and Cement Factories since the ban of coal mining was imposed by the Hon'ble NGT and compared the same with the corresponding year-wise quantity of coal reported to be procured/consumed by each of these Plants/Factories during each of these years. The difference, if any, between the 2(two) quantities could have been made by illegally procured coal. In the said report, year-wise quantity of coal reported to be procured/consumed by each of these Plants/Factories has only been stated. In the absence of year-wise details of the power or cements reported/recorded to be produced by each of these Plants/Factories and the year-wise quantity of coal required to produce such recorded/ reported quantity of power or cement, it is not possible to ascertain whether the quantity of coal reported to be purchased by them was enough to produce the recorded quantity of power or cement.

The CPCB, therefore, has been directed to revise the report clearly stating what has been discussed above in its meeting scheduled to held on 24/04/2019.

16. The Central Pollution Control Board, vide its report has also informed the Committee that out of 9 Captive Power Plants in the State of Meghalaya, the conditions for non – use of coal from the local source is imposed only in case of Meghalaya Power Ltd in respect of the 43 Mega Watt. The Committee by the said Report has also been apprised that despite such condition since the said Captive Power Plant is procuring the coal from the local source, show cause notice has already been issued by Ministry of Environment & Forests & Climate Change on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 asking for the non – compliance of such condition in the Environment Clearance granted. The representative of MoEF & CC present in today's' Proceedings has informed the Committee that by the said notices, one month's time have been granted, necessary action shall be taken against the said Captive Power Plant only thereafter.

That being the position, the Committee directs the Additional Director General of Forests (C), MoEF & CC, North Eastern Regional Office, Shillong to submit a report relating to the action taken against the said Captive Power Plant for violation of the aforesaid conditions in the Environmental Clearance.

The Committee, having regard to the fact that the illegal activities of coal mining is rampant in the State of Meghalaya, which however has been directed to be stopped by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal as well as by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, and also for non-compliance of the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Developmental Regulation) Act, 1957 as well as environmental laws, is of the view that a condition of non – use of the coal from the local source is required to be added in the Environmental Clearance already granted to other Captive Power Plant, by the appropriate authority, viz. MoEF & CC and State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA). Hence, the Additional Director General (C), MoEF & CC, North Eastern Regional Office, Shillong shall make necessary

recommendations to the appropriate authority in the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India in that regard so that a decision in that regard can be taken at the earliest, keeping in mind the public interest involved.

The Committee has also been apprised that the Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board vide the communication dated 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 has already directed all the Captive Power Plants including the Power Plants in the State of Meghalaya to install Flue Gas De-Sulphurization (FGD Plant) to control sulphur dioxide to the environment by 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 and in terms of the said directions, such Plant has to be installed by all the Captive Power Plants by the said cut – off date.

17. Mr. H. Tynsong, Scientist 'D', MoEF & CC, North Eastern Regional Office, Shillong, who is present before the Committee in today's Proceedings, referring to the Action Taken Report dtd 20.03.2019, submitted by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (C), MoEF & CC, North Eastern Regional Office, Shillong, re – designated as Additional Director General of Forests (C), has stated that despite the notices issued to M/s Cement Manufacture Company Ltd, M/s Mawmluh Cherra Cement Ltd and M/s Adhunik Cement Ltd, the minor violations stated therein have not been rectified. M/s Lafarge Umiam Mining Pvt Ltd however, has complied with the requirements of the Environmental Clearance granted.

In view of the above, the MoEF & CC, North Eastern Regional Office shall within a month from now take appropriate action against the aforesaid defaulting cement companies, for violation of the conditions set in the Environmental Clearances granted and apprise the Committee about the same.

18. The Deputy Commissioners and the Superintendents of Police of all the districts and the concerned authorities have not so far submitted their respective feedback along with the progress made in implementation of the Action Plan as directed vide Proceedings dated 06.03.2019. A month's time is however granted to the Deputy Commissioners and the Superintendents of Police to submit the feedbacks along with the progress report within a month.
19. A detailed report dated 20.03.2019 has been submitted by the Director of Health Services (MI) Government of Meghalaya where from it appears that the common diseases from which the inhabitants of the coal mining localities are suffering from are skin infections, respiratory infections, heart diseases, joint pains, cough, fever, which are the common diseases from which the inhabitants of non – coal mining areas are also suffering from. The Director of Health Services (MI) has also submitted that because of the acidic nature of water, the people in the localities of coal mines are not suffering from any particular type of diseases, as no such record is available in any Primary Health Centre, Sub Centre or Community Health Centre. It has also been stated that during the survey conducted by the Committees

constituted, no villager has reported that they are suffering from any particular type of diseases because of the acidic nature of water. The Director has also stated that samples of water from different sources in the Districts of East Jaintia Hills and South Garo Hills have been collected and sent to the laboratory in Guwahati for testing, report of which is expected within a week.

The said detailed Report is taken on record. The report of the aforesaid tests shall be placed before the Committee in its next sitting.

20. An Action Taken Report has been submitted by Director of School Education & Literacy, who is however not present before the meeting in today's Proceedings, on the pretext of his being busy with another meeting somewhere else.

Shri L. S. Lyngdoh, Deputy Director of School Education & Literacy Government of Meghalaya referring to the action Taken Report, dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2019, has however stated that after last Proceedings dated 06.03.2019, three awareness programmes have been held.

The Director of School Education & Literacy, it appears to the Committee, has avoided appearing before this Committee today as no worthwhile awareness camps/ programmes has been held either in the month of February, 2019 or so far in the month of March, 2019. The Action Taken Report dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2019 which also encloses the communication dated 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 reveals conduct of awareness programmes only on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2019 in 3 (three) schools, except which no further awareness programmes has been conducted and hence it appears that the Education Department is not serious enough to conduct the awareness programmes despite its requirement.

The Committee is not at all satisfied with the progress of work relating to the conduct of awareness programmes and holding of awareness camps in all the districts of the State of Meghalaya, more particularly in the districts of East Jaintia Hills and South Garo Hills, which are the mostly affected districts because of the illegal coal mining activities.

The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya Education therefore shall ensure holding of such awareness camps or awareness programmes every month in different schools and submit a report to this Committee in its next meeting.

The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Education Department as well as the Director of Education & School Literacy shall give their feedbacks to Prof. O. P. Singh, Department of Environmental Studies, North Eastern Hill University who has been requested to prepare a protocol for conduct of awareness camps/ programmes in different villages and also in different schools. Such feedback shall be given within a period of 10 (ten) days from now.

21. Shri M. Somorjit Singh, Scientist, North Eastern Space Application Centre (NESAC), Umiam, Meghalaya has sent a mail to Shri H. C. Chaudhary, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Planning, Development & Legal Matters), Government of

Meghalaya expressing his inability to appear before the Committee in today's Proceedings due to his involvement in the General Election to Lok Sabha, polling of which in the State of Meghalaya is scheduled to be held on 11.04.2019. By the said communication, the progress of the work entrusted to them has however been mentioned. Placement of order for supply of satellite data for Nongjiri and Jadigittim, South Garo Hills Dist. has also been mentioned in the said communication. It appears from the progress status on preparation of geospatial database inputs for planning and restoration of areas affected by coal mining, as submitted by NESAC, that first phase of the work covering East & West Jaintia Hills Districts is almost over.

Having regard to the same, the Committee directs NESAC to make final presentation of the first phase of the work allotted to them in its next Proceedings.

### AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

22. (i) The Deputy Commissioner has submitted a proposal for making available an amount of Rs. 6.48 lakhs for procurement of 36 nos. of 2000 litres capacity of Syntax water reservoir from the Meghalaya Environment Protection and Restoration Fund (MEPRF). The Committee having discussed the said proposal has directed the Government of Meghalaya to make available the said fund to the Deputy Commissioner for procurement of the water reservoirs. The Deputy Commissioner may also make arrangements for procurement of the required nos. of water reservoir out of the CSR fund. In no case, the said fund shall be made available from MEPR Fund.

(ii) A proposal dated 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 has also been submitted by the Deputy Commissioner, East Jaintia Hills District for making available the fund of Rs. 134.8 lakhs for purchase and operation of 4 nos. of vehicle mounted water tankers of the capacity of 10,000 litres and 2 nos. vehicle mounted water tankers of the capacity of 2000 litres, respectively.

The Committee in its earlier Proceedings has recorded that out of the 36 existing Water Supply Schemes in East Jaintia Hills District, acidic water by means of 26 Water Supply Schemes has been supplied to the villages covered by the said schemes. The Committee having regard to the same, directed the Deputy Commissioner to make all necessary arrangements for providing potable water to the villages covered under the said schemes as a temporary measure.

In terms of the same, the Deputy Commissioner has submitted a proposal for making available the funds for procurement of the aforesaid 6 nos. vehicles. The Committee having regard to the necessity of supplying potable water to the villagers of the aforesaid villages covered by the aforesaid schemes recommends spending of the capital cost amounting to Rs. 96.59 lakhs for procurement of the aforesaid 6 nos. vehicles mounted with

the water tankers. The decision in that regard may be taken by the Hon'ble NGT, since an Order dated 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2018 has already been passed by the Hon'ble NGT directing that no amount shall be spent out of the said fund. The operation and cost has to be borne by the Deputy Commissioner.

(iii) The proposal of the Deputy Commissioner, East Jaintia Hills District shall be scrutinised by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Government of Meghalaya and also Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat. A report in that regard shall be submitted to this Committee in its next Proceedings.

(iv)&(v) The proposals of the Deputy Commissioner of East Jaintia Hills, Ri – Bhoi Districts and Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council respectively have not been accepted as the said proposal do not cover the mining areas of the State of Meghalaya.

### AGENDA ITEM NO. 3

23. As directed, the Deputy Commissioner, East Jaintia Hills District, Khliehriat submitted his Report dated 02.03.2019 on the news Report titled "**Four die as coal laden truck capsized in EJH**" appeared in Shillong Edition of a local Daily Shillong Times in its publication dated 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2019. The Deputy Commissioner in the said Report has stated that one truck bearing registration **No. AS11 – CC – 7420** met with an accident, which was carrying coal and in that accident, four persons viz Late Shri Umesh Raut , Late Shri Thulasi Raut, Late Shri Nanda Kishor Mahato and Late Shri Anil Sah, died and that apart four other persons viz. Shri Neman Mahato, Shri Bhuti Miyan, Shri Daroga Mukhia and Shri Atehelal Giri, received injuries. The said Report further reveals that appropriate legal action so far has not been taken which the Deputy Commissioner is proposing to take at the earliest.

It therefore appears that the transportation of illegally mined coal in East Jaintia Hills District, despite the ban imposed by the Hon'ble NGT as well as the Hon'ble Supreme Court, is going on. The Orders passed by the Hon'ble NGT and the Hon'ble Supreme Court have so far not been fully implemented at least in East Jaintia Hills District, which has more than 24,000 coal mines and is a major illegally coal producing District in the State of Meghalaya.

The Chief Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya is, therefore; once again directed to ensure full implementation of the aforesaid ban imposed by the Hon'ble NGT as well as by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, failing which the Chief Secretary shall ensure taking appropriate action against all the officers concerned.

A report in that regard shall be submitted to this Committee within a month.



#### AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

24. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Climate Change, Research & Training), Government of Meghalaya has submitted a Pilot Project Proposal for restoration of coal mining areas in Jaintia Hills, which includes both East & West Jaintia Hills District, which however could not be accepted for the reasons discussed.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Climate Change, Research & Training), Government of Meghalaya has also during the deliberation admitted that the estimates projected in his aforesaid report is not wholly correct.

The Committee therefore rejects the estimate project for the pilot project by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Climate Change, Research & Training), Government of Meghalaya. A fresh estimate for the pilot project shall be submitted in consultation with Prof. O. P. Singh, Department of Environmental Studies, North Eastern Hill University, Dr. S. Dutta, Additional Director, Central Pollution Control Board and Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forests Force, Government of Meghalaya shall on the next date fixed, produce the details of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) fund available with the State of Meghalaya and also the details of amount spent from the said fund.

#### AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

25. The report submitted by the Chief Executive Officer of M/s Trinity Impex International of Chennai from the screening and feasibility on treatment of water samples collected from Lad Rymbai, Sutnga and Moowakhu, after its inoculation with selected micro – algae from the culture collection from their research laboratory, has been placed before the Committee, where from it appears that after conducting such tests, the  $p^H$  value of the samples of water has considerably increased. The Committee however has not been apprised as to whether the said organisation has undertaken any field application of their micro – algae for treatment of any acidic water, if so the results thereon. The Committee has also not been apprised by the said report as to the effects on the ecology because of the use of such micro – algae, apart from the cost to be incurred.

Hence the Committee decides to request M/s Trinity Impex International to submit a report on the following:

- (i) Whether they have undertaken any pilot project on the field for treatment of acidic water, if so, where and with what result.
- (ii) Whether there is any affect on the ecology because of the use of micro – algae.

(iii) What would be the cost per volume of water?

The said report may be submitted to the Committee within a fortnight.

The Member Secretary shall inform the said organisation accordingly.

26. The next Sitting of the Committee will be held on **25<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 at 10.00 A. M** onwards in the Conference Room, office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Sylvan House, Meghalaya, Shillong.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the Chair.



(Justice Brojendra P. Katakey)  
Chairman